

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A scabbard for holding a baton, comprising:  
a carrier having a generally C-shape defining a baton entry opening; and  
at least one over-center latching mechanism supported by the carrier such that a baton inserted laterally into the entry opening is snapped into the scabbard and held in place by the over-center latching mechanism so as to releasably retain the baton within the scabbard.
2. The scabbard as defined in claim 1 wherein the C-shaped carrier includes upper and lower frame portions having laterally opposed ends defining said entry opening to permit a baton of a fixed diameter and of any length to be inserted laterally into said entry opening.
3. The scabbard of claim 2 wherein said upper and lower frame portions are disposed in parallel spaced relation, said over-center latching mechanism being supported by and between said frame portions.
4. The scabbard of claim 1 wherein said over-center latching mechanism comprises two roller assemblies, each roller assembly further including a front roller and a rear roller, each roller assembly configured to pivot relative to the carrier about a pivotal axis, such that as a baton is first inserted into the scabbard, the roller assemblies pivot causing the front rollers move apart and the rear rollers to move toward each other, and as the baton is further inserted and contacts the rear rollers, the roller assemblies snap into place such the front rollers move toward each other and encompass a portion of the baton so as to hold the baton in place.
5. The scabbard of claim 1, wherein the carrier includes a friction pad releasably attached to a rear wall of the carrier such that when a baton is placed into the scabbard the baton contacts the friction member.
6. The scabbard of claim 7, wherein the friction member is constructed of a smooth rubber.
7. A scabbard, comprising:  
a carrier having a generally C-shaped cross-section and a top and bottom, the top and bottom being open such that a baton of any length can be placed therein;  
an over-center latching mechanism within the carrier, comprising two sets of roller assemblies, each roller assembly having a front roller and a rear roller pivoted together about a pivotal axis, such that as a baton is inserted into the scabbard, the two front rollers pivot apart, and as the baton is pushed further, against the rear rollers, the baton is snapped into the scabbard and the front rollers are pivoted together to hold the baton in place; and  
the over-center latching mechanism being self-adjustable such that any diameter pole-shaped device can be placed within the scabbard.

8. The scabbard of claim 7, wherein the carrier comprises a rear wall and including a friction member releasably attached to the rear wall such that when a baton is placed into the scabbard the friction member and baton are in touching relation.
9. The scabbard of claim 8, wherein the friction member is constructed of a smooth rubber.